

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-29 (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a temperature regulated source of heat exchange fluid for heat exchange catheters, comprising the steps of:

providing a disposable circuit assembly comprising an external heat exchanger, a bulkhead a housing having including a pump head and a reservoir disposed therein, a heat exchange catheter, and air vents, said external heat exchanger, bulkhead pump head and reservoir and heat exchange catheter in fluid communication such that fluid pumped by the pump head of the bulkhead is circulated through said heat exchange catheter and said external heat exchanger, and said air vents allow passage of gas in and out of said disposable circuit assembly through said vents but do not allow passage of liquid in and out of said disposable circuit assembly through said air vents;

providing a heat generating or removing unit in heat exchange relationship with said external heat exchanger;

providing an external fluid source in fluid communication with said disposable circuit assembly;

providing a valve between said external fluid source and said disposable circuit assembly, said valve having an open position which permits the flow of heat exchange fluid from said external fluid source into said disposable circuit assembly and a closed position which prevents the flow of heat exchange fluid from said external fluid source to said disposable circuit assembly;

providing a level sensor within said disposable circuit assembly to sense when the fluid level in said disposable circuit assembly is full, said level sensor generating a signal in response to said full fluid level;

initially maintaining said valve in said open position until said sensor senses that the fluid level in said disposable circuit assembly is at an adequately full level; and

operating said valve into said closed position in response to said signal;

circulating heat exchange fluid from said external source through said disposable circuit assembly by means of pumping with said pump head while simultaneously venting any gas contained in said disposable circuit assembly out through said air vents; and

controlling the temperature of said heat exchanger fluid in said disposable circuit assembly by controlling the temperature of said heat generating or removing unit.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of controlling the pressure of said fluid as said fluid is circulated through said disposable circuit assembly.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32 wherein said pressure control comprises a pressure regulator in fluid communication with said disposable circuit assembly.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said pressure regulator is a pressure damping mechanism.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said pump head is operated by an electric motor, and said pressure is controlled by maintaining a predetermined current to said electric motor.

Claim 36 (Cancelled)